

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 TRSE-00 /059 W
-----061594 271858Z /64

P 271820Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2537
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, UK, EEC
SUBJECT: EC DIRECT ELECTIONS: GOVERNMENT WINS TIMETABL
REF: LONDON 1148

1. THE HOUSE OF COMMONS JANUARY 26 APPROVED THE
GOVERNMENT'S TIMETABLE MOTION ON THE EC DIRECT ELECTIONS
BILL, AS EXPECTED (REFTEL), BY A THUMPING 177 VOTE
MAJORITY (314 TO 137). THE TIMETABLE ALLOCATES ONLY
THREE MORE DAYS OF DEBATE FOR THE BILL IN COMMITTEE
STAGES. ONE DAY, FEBRUARY 2, HAS ALREADY BEEN SCHEDULE
WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE BILL WILL BE REPORTED OUT TO THE
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HOUSE OF LORDS BY EARLY MARCH, AT THE LATEST.

2. INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT ABOUT 155 LABOR MPS
VOTED TO SUPPORT THE TIMETABLE AND 61 OPPOSED' LEAVING
ABOUT 90 OTHERS WHO WERE ABSENT OR ABSTAINED (FOUR
CABINET MEMBERS -- BENN, SHORE, ORME AND SILKIN -- DID
NOT VOTE). THE RELATIVELY STRONG GOVERNMENT TURNOUT

REPRESENTED A MINOR VICTORY FOR CALLAGHAN, SINCE IT WAS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN MOST OBSERVERS HAD ANTICIPATED ABOUT 150 CONSERVATIVE MPS, INCLUDING MRS. THATCHER, VOTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT, WHILE ABOUT 60 OTHERS JOINED LABOR ANTI-MARKETEERS, SCOTTISH NATIONALISTS, ULSTER UNIONISTS AND THE LONE SDLP MEMBER IN THE "NAY" LOBBY.

3. WE ARE UNABLE TO PREDICT HOW THE LORDS WILL ACT ON THIS BILL, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT ANTICIPATING DIFFICULTY FROM THAT QUARTER.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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